

Mark C. Curran Jr. Sheriff

Raymond J. Rose Undersheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sheriff Curran Announces Three New K-9 Teams

Funding made possible with a grant from the D.A.S. Charitable Fund

Waukegan, IL – Lake County Sheriff Mark Curran announced the selection of the following Deputies as K-9 unit members:

- Deputy Craig Somerville
- Deputy Dwight Arrowood
- Deputy John Forlenza

Each member (aka K-9 handler) is assigned a K-9 that will remain with the handler for the duration of the K-9's career.

Selection Process

Deputies interested in being considered for the three (3) available positions were required to submit resumes and letters of interest provide ideas about the K-9 program and how the program would benefit in the safety of Lake County residents. Deputies then participated in two sets of interviews with command staff. Deputies' accomplishments and backgrounds were weighed heavily in the process.

Funding the K-9s and Training

Funding for the purchase and training of the three new K-9s was made possible with a grant from the D.A.S. Charitable Fund. Sheriff Curran stated, "We are thankful to D.A.S. for the generous grant enabling the Lake County Sheriff's Office to restore our K-9 unit. Replacing aging K-9s is costly but necessary to maintain optimum safety and operability."

Breed Selection

The German Shepard breed is selected because of their intelligence and overall adaptability to the extreme cold and heat experienced in the Midwest, as well as the drive and characteristics needed

to perform the many law enforcement K-9 tasks. Tasks include tracking, contraband detection and article and cadaver searches.

Training

The selected rookie K-9s are matched with the deputy handlers based on compatibility. Each deputy is assigned a German Shepard partner creating a K-9 team. Each team begins training in early April. The TOPS Police K-9 Training Program in Grayslake is considered the premier K-9 training facility serving 67 law enforcement agencies including the lake County Sheriff's Office as well as Waukegan P.D., Wheeling P.D. and Buffalo Grove P.D.

TOPS pre-train the rookie K-9s for two months before assigning them to a deputy. The K-9 training program is a rigorous 450-500 hour program working with both the K-9 and its deputy handler. Following the training, K-9s remain on a maintenance program for the balance of their careers.

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